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Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in first of three meetings this afternoon, extends mandate of United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador for further six months, until 31 May 1993; in second meeting, it calls upon "those concerned" to prevent supply of oil products to any Cambodian party not complying with peace plan; will also consider freezing of assets held by Party of Democratic Kampuchea; in third meeting, Council extends mandate of United Nations Angola Verification Mission for another two months until 31 January 1993.

+ Secretary-General, in letter to Security Council, outlines five proposals on humanitarian operations in Somalia.

+ Security Council expresses view that increased resort to fact-finding as contained in Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Peace" report could result in the "best possible understanding of the objective facts of a situation".

+ Unless cooperation of Serb militia forces in Croatia is obtained, United Nations Protection Force will "confront Security Council with same dilemma as have other United Nations operations which have been met with non-cooperation" by parties, Secretary-General says.

+ Secretary-General cites three basic elements for desired settlement of Middle East conflict at commemoration of International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People; speakers call for settlement of Arab-Israeli conflict with full restoration of national rights of Palestinians.

+ Elie Wiesel, holocaust survivor and Nobel Prize winner, visits Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss ways of ending bloodshed.

+ Special Envoy to South Africa, Tom Vraalsen, visits Ciskei for talks with Brigadier Oupa Gqozo on reducing violence, strengthening national Peace Accord, and peaceful transition to democracy in South Africa.

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For information media—not an official record

+ World Aids Day Observance to be held at Headquarters tomorrow, 1 December, in General Assembly Hall.

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The Security Council, in the first of three consecutive meetings this afternoon, voted to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) for a further period of six months ending 31 May 1993. By its unanimous decision, the Council approved the report by the Secretary-General and invited him to adapt the future activities and strength of ONUSAL, taking into account progress made in implementing the peace process. The Council urged the Salvadorian Government and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) to respect scrupulously and implement the agreements signed in January in Mexico City and to exercise the utmost moderation and restraint in order to respect the new deadlines agreed upon by them.

In a second meeting on Cambodia, the Council called on "those concerned" to ensure that measures are taken to prevent the supply of oil products to the areas occupied by any Cambodian party not complying with the military provisions of the Paris Agreements and asked the Secretary-General to examine such measures. The Coucil would consider appropriate measures to be implemented should the Party of Democratic Kampuchea (PDK) obstruct the implementation of the peace plan, such as the freezing of the assets held by the PDK outside Cambodia.

The Council further decided under its resolution 792 (1992), adopted by a vote of 14 in favour with one abstention (China), that the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) should proceed with preparations for free and fair elections to be held April/May next year in all areas of Cambodia to which UNTAC has full and free access as of 31 January.

Also under the text, the Council demanded that the PDK fulfil immediately its obligations under the Paris Agreements; that it facilitate without delay full deployment of UNTAC in the areas under its control; and that it not impede voter registration in those areas. It also demanded that the PDK implement fully Phase II of the cease-fire, particularly cantonment and demobilization, as well as all other aspects of the Agreements.

In a statement before the vote, China said that instead of helping to solve the problems, sanctions would further increase differences and sharpen contradictions which could consequently lead to new complicated problems.

At its third meeting today, the Security Council approved the recommendation of the Secretary-General to extend the existing mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) for a further period of two months, until 31 January 1993.

In a resolution adopted unanimously, the Council strongly appealed to the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to engage in a continuous and meaningful dialogue aimed at

national reconciliation and at the participation of all parties in the democratic process, and to agree on a clear timetable for the fulfilment of their commitments, in accordance with the "Acordos de Paz".

The Council demanded that the two parties scrupulously observe the cease-fire, immediately stop all military confrontation, in particular offensive troop movements, and create all the conditions necessary for the completion of the peace process.

The Council also reaffirmed that it would hold responsible any party which refuses to take part in a continuous and meaningful dialogue, "thereby jeopardizing the entire process", and reiterated its readiness to consider all appropriate measures under the United Nations Charter to secure implementation of the peace plan.

It asked the Secretary-General to submit to the Council by 31 January 1993 a further report on the situation in Angola together with his longer-term recommendations for the further role of the United Nations in the peace process in that country, "which should be clearly defined in scope and time and based on a wide degree of support in Angola".

The Council's action follows a report by the Secretary-General in which he said that the successful completion of the peace process and the establishment of multi-party democracy in Angola "now seem further further off than at any time since before the Peace Accords were signed in May 1991". The Secretary-General warned in his report that "the international community cannot wait indefinitely" for the parties to take the difficult decisions required of them "if the peace process is to be put back on track".

In a statement to the Council before its vote, the Secretary-General expressed his great sadness at the death yesterday of a Brazilian police observer serving with UNAVEM II. Sergeant Adilson Barbosa Costa was killed in northern Angola, as a result of an outbreak of hostilities between Government and UNITA forces.

While deploring this further violation of the Angolan Peace Accords, Mr. Boutros-Ghali strongly appealed to both the Government of Angola and UNITA to cease hostilities immediately and to seek a peaceful solution to the present crisis through dialogue. "UNAVEM II can only carry out its tasks effectively if both sides demonstrate their full commitment to peace", he said.
Document S/25458

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In a response to a request from the Council that he formulate a set of recommendations on how to remedy the breakdown of humanitarian efforts in Somalia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has outlined five options for its consideration. The response was contained in a letter made public today by the Secretary-General's Spokesman, Joe Sills.

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According to the letter, the first option would be to continue and intensify efforts to deploy the United Nations Observer Mission in Somalia (UNOSOM) in accordance with its existing mandate, which requires that force only be used in self-defence. Given that there are few authorities in the country with whom UNOSOM can effectively negotiate, continuation of the present course would be an inadequate response to the crisis, Mr. Boutros-Ghali stresses.

The second option suggests that the idea of using international military personnel to protect relief activities be abandoned, and that humanitarian agencies make the best arrangements they can with the various faction and clan leaders. However, the Secretary-General does not favour the option of withdrawal because, he argues, the troubles facing UNOSOM are not due to the presence of international troops, but because there are too few of them.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali says that the purpose of the three other options would be to ensure, on a lasting basis, that the current violence against the international relief effort was brought to an end.

The first of those three would be for UNOSOM to undertake a show of force in Mogadishu, based on the belief of some experts that a determined demonstration of force by UNOSOM troops in the capital would discourage those currently abusing the relief efforts from pursuing their lawless activities. However, Mr. Boutros-Ghali contends that a countrywide operation would be required to have the desired deterrent effect.

The next option would entail a countrywide enforcement action undertaken by a group of Member States authorized to do so by the Security Council. Mr. Boutros-Ghali mentions in this connection the offer by the United States to organize and lead such an operation. In such a case, the Secretary-General would advise the Council and those Members taking part in the operation that they find a way to recognize the Security Council's legitimate interest in the manner in which it was carried out.

The fifth and final option is also for a countrywide enforcement action, but one carried out under United Nations command and control. This would be consistent, he says, with the recent enlargement of the Organization's role in the maintenance of international peace and security, and would strengthen its long-term evolution as an effective system of collective security.

With the Secretariat already overstretched in managing peace-keeping commitments, the Secretary-General states, it would be necessary for Member States contributing troops to also provide personnel for the Headquarters, both in the field and in New York.

Whether an action is taken under United Nations command, or by Member States with Security Council authorization, he writes, it should be precisely defined and limited in time, "in order to prepare the way for a return to peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building".

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Members of the Security Council have expressed their support for the Secretary-General's proposals on fact-finding contained in his report on "An Agenda for Peace". A statement by the President of the Council today said members were of the view that an increased resort to fact-finding as a tool of preventive diplomacy could result in "the best possible understanding of the objective facts of a situation", thus enabling the Secretary-General to meet his responsibilities.

The members of the Security Council, the statement continued, being aware of the increased responsibilities of the United Nations in the area of preventive diplomacy, invited the Secretary-General to consider appropriate measures necessary to strengthen the capacity of the Secretariat for information gathering and in-depth analysis. It further noted that the members of the Council would facilitate and encourage appropriate use of fact-finding missions on a case-by-case basis.

The Council members endorsed the Secretary-General's view that "in some cases a fact-finding mission can help defuse a dispute or situation, indicating to those concerned that the United Nations and in particular the Security Council is actively seized of the matter as a present or potential threat to international peace and security".

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Unless a way was found to obtain the cooperation of the Serb militia forces in Croatia, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in that country would "confront the Security Council with the same dilemma" as have other United Nations operations which have been met "with non-cooperation" by the parties, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said.

In a further report on the progress made by UNPROFOR in general, he said the situation in the four United Nations protected areas in Croatia and in the so-called "pink zones" -- areas controlled by the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA) and populated largely by Serbs -- had "not improved" since September, even though the United Nations peace-keepers had succeeded in controlling the level of hostilities in the area. In such situations, he wrote, "the Security Council has to make the difficult choice between withdrawing the operation", thus facing a resumption of the fighting, "or keeping it in place" in the knowledge that it may involve the Council in "large and expensive commitments for an indefinite period of time".

The "root cause" for UNPROFOR's inability to make further progress in Croatia, the Secretary-General continued, were the Serb militia forces, known as "the Knin authorities", who were refusing the accept the demilitarization of the area and the return of refugees and displaced persons. It was they who had "exploited the presence of UNPROFOR and the resulting cessation of hostilities to assert their pretentions to sovereignty and statehood", instead of cooperating with the UNPROFOR to create conditions for negotiations of their legitimate concerns.

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With regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Secretary-General said the situation there was "also disquieting", but UNPROFOR's mandate in that country - part of which was to monitor the ban on military flights - was "more practicable than in Croatia". It had already been established that this was feasible.
Document S/24848

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today told a solemn meeting commemorating the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People that there were three elements basic to the desired settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East: withdrawal of Israeli forces from Arab territories; acknowledgement of and respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in the region, including Israel, and a satisfactory solution of the Palestinian problem based on the recognition of the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people.

The Chairman of the Palestinian Rights Committee, Keba Birane Cisse of Senegal, urged the international community to reaffirm the permanent responsibility of the United Nations with respect to the question of Palestine until it was resolved. It was clear that the parties concerned and the international community must intensify efforts to break through the impasse to reach a just settlement, he added.

The President of the General Assembly, Stoyan Ganev of Bulgaria, said the question of Palestine remained the longest unresolved conflict on the agenda of the United Nations. The United Nations bore historic responsibility towards ensuring a just settlement based on full restoration of the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

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Elie Wiesel, holocaust survivor and Nobel Prize winner, visited Sarajevo yesterday to meet with the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina and to discuss ways of ending the bloodshed in that region.

The President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), Dobrica Cosic, told the Bosnian President in a letter that Mr. Wiesel had already visited his country with the intention of contributing to the establishment of peace as soon as possible.

The letter, dated 27 November, was circulated as an official document (S/24860) of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

In a separate development, Croatia has expressed concern that the naval blockade imposed by the Security Council against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) would cause merchants to avoid sailing into the Adriatic Sea, "thus causing irreparable damage" to the Croatian maritime industry.

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In a letter, dated 26 November, to the President of the Security Council, the Croatian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mario Nobilo, said hundreds of thousands of refugees in Croatia were receiving international humanitarian relief aid, part of which was being shipped by sea. While welcoming the Council's decision to impose a naval blockade, Mr. Nobilo said delay in those precious shipments would prolong the suffering of the refugees in Croatia. He urged the Security Council to issue guidelines to facilitate the monitoring of States' implementation of its decision.

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Tom Vraalsen, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to South Africa, is continuing his mission to that country to assess how the United Nations' contribution to peace might be enhanced.

According to a press communiqué issued today, Mr. Vraalsen visited Bisho, Ciskei, over the weekend for talks with Brigadier Oupa Gqozo and members of his staff. He was accompanied by Angela King, head of the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA). The talks covered a wide range of issues related to reducing violence, strengthening the structures under the national Peace Accord, and bringing about a peaceful transition to democracy in South Africa. Today, Mr. Vraalsen met in Pretoria with seven cabinet ministers of the South African Government.

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The United Nations will be observing 1992 World AIDS Day tomorrow, 1 December, at Headquarters, with a special briefing on AIDS in the General Assembly Hall, featuring speakers from around the world, who are leaders in the battle against AIDS. Assembly President Stoyan Ganev and Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali are scheduled to address the Assembly.

This years World AIDS Day will be marked under the theme "A community Commitment", recognizing the key contribution of communities around the world in the response to the pandemic.

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